

CONCERT REVIEW

# Joni Mitchell Moves Crowd at New Opry

NASHVILLE — Joni Mitchell (Asylum) set a high standard of excellence for future pop performers to follow at the elegant new Grand Ole Opry House April 4. Mitchell is the first pop artist to use what is perhaps the finest live concert facility in the world. Taking advantage of the 32 house speakers plus 20 speakers of her own, Mitchell's crystal-clear voice filled the entire room.

Mitchell's appearance seemed to have a quieting effect after several days of tornados and storms in this area. An idealist who possibly doesn't want to be, she almost summed up her philosophy when she said, "I can't believe things can be so beautiful and yet so mean," while painting word pictures of a storm she witnessed the previous day.

Mitchell, and Tom Scott & the L. A. Express (Ode), who opened the show with some superb jazz arrangements, found a receptive audience of 3,800 for her two-part concert. The audience was almost too polite, paying close attention to each line. In this respect, it

was hard to distinguish whether this was a literary or a musical affair.

Joni opened the show with "This Flight Tonight," then continued into "You Turn Me On, I'm A Radio." Scott and the L. A. Express complemented her perfectly as she matched her voice to each instrumental run. Mitchell offered the audience an anthology as she sang selections from each of her albums. She mixed in classics like "Woodstock," "All I Want" and "Both Sides Now" with new material like "Banquet," "See You Sometime" and "Cold Blue Steel and Sweet Fire." She also did "Help Me," "Raised on Robbery" and "Car On The Hill" from her latest LP "Court and Spark." The concert ended with a double encore, "The Last Time I Saw Richard" and "Twisted."

The mood of the affair was extremely difficult to put your finger on. It was flawless without a doubt. Perhaps it is her elusiveness and complexity that attracts her faithful following.

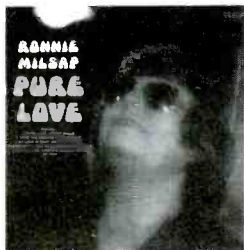
Bob Anderson

## RECORD WORLD COUNTRY ALBUM REVIEWS

### PURE LOVE

RONNIE MILSAP—RCA APL1-0500

Ronnie is gaining a larger audience with every release and this will continue the pattern. His perfect feel for a song is his greatest asset as he proves on "Please Don't Tell Me How The Story Ends," "Pure Love," "All My Roads (Lead Back To You)" and "Four Walls." Milsap's star is on the rise and this mellow album has plenty of hit appeal. A very positive outing for this talented artist!



### CROSS COUNTRY COWBOY

BUZZ RABIN—Elektra EKS-75076

Rabin is a new kid on the block who's going to turn a lot of ears his way. He wrote Ringo Starr's "Beaucoups of Blues" hit awhile back and his first album shows additional solid material. Rabin wrote all the songs and gave each one just the right emotional touch. His strength lies in the moving lyrics of potential hits like "Angels In Red," "Cross Country Cowboy," "This I Know" and "Roads and Other Reasons." Rabin's debut shows him to be a singer/songwriter to be reckoned with.



### STARS OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY

1926-1974

RCA CPL2-0466

The title of this one speaks for itself. Every collector and fan will want one of these albums. A two-record set of previously released material by the greats: Uncle Dave Macon, Pee Wee King, Grandpa Jones, Kitty Wells, Eddy Arnold, Jim Reeves, Dolly Parton and many more too numerous to mention. Also included is a biography of each artist. Country music history in one package.



# COUNTRY HOT LINE

By MARIE RATLIFF

## Station Check List

Reporting this week: (Alphabetically)

KBUC, San Antonio	WBAM, Montgomery	WIRE, Indianapolis
KBUY, Ft. Worth	WBAP, Ft. Worth	WITL, Lansing
KCKC, San Bernadino	WCMS, Norfolk	WMNI, Columbus
KFDI, Wichita	WEEP, Pittsburgh	WPIK, Washington
KFOX, Long Beach	WENO, Nashville	WQIK, Jacksonville
KKYX, San Antonio	WGBG, Greensboro	WUBE, Cincinnati
KLAC, Los Angeles	WHN, New York	WVOJ, Jacksonville
KWMT, Ft. Dodge	WHO, Des Moines	WWL, New Orleans
WAME, Charlotte	WINN, Louisville	WWVA, Wheeling

"This Time" Waylon Jennings has a hit! With picks all over and numbers already in several major markets, the timing on "This Time" is perfect for top ten!

Last week we mentioned a possible split on the new Charley Pride release, but this week's reports indicate nearly 85 percent of the play is on "We Could." The standard will be a smash all over again.

Another standard revived via the new Jim Reeves release of "I'd Fight The World," showing strength along the east coast and in Texas.

Left Field Possible: George Kent's "Take My Life (and Shape It With Your Love)" is one of Billy Cole's most requested at WHO; added to playlist at WPIK, WINN and KFOX.

Loretta Lynn is off to a fast start with "They Don't Make 'Em Like My Daddy," particularly in the East and Midwest.

Some split action beginning to show on the Anne Murray single; though KCKC, WHN, WWVA, WIRE and WBAP are heavy on "He Thinks I Still Care," Nashville and Norfolk are showing response to "You Won't See Me" as well as the 'A' side, and are airing both!

LaCosta's debut disc is mushrooming into a widespread heavy spinner! "I Wanna Get To You" getting to audiences at WINN, KFOX, WIRE and WENO; picked at WGBG and WMNI!

Willie Nelson's "Bloody Mary Morning" is getting great response nationwide.

Ho Hum Department: It's not really news, but we're throwing in the fact that Charlie Rich has another hit. RCA's "I Don't See Me In Your Eyes Anymore" will meet no resistance on its streak to the top!

Don Walton at KFDI says one of his most requested items is Ronnie Sessions & Patti Tierney's "You Say The Sweetest Things;" Tom Wayne at KBUC calls it one of his hottest chart items!

Regional Ratings: Harrison Jones' "Tonight I'm Gonna Love You" is #8 in Louisville, moving in Montgomery; Gordon Lightfoot's "Sundown" added at KBUC; Lobo's "Standing At The End of the Line" good at WCMS; Bob Loftis' "Next Time Goes" a hot charter in Columbus; James O'Gwynn's "Gotebo" is doing well in Des Moines; Billy Walker's "How Far Our Love Goes" picked at WENO.

A Country Convert: WJRD in Tuscaloosa, Alabama has made the switch from a contemporary format to country. Music director is Courtney Hayden.

KZIP in Amarillo announces some changes. Jack Grant becomes operations manager and Ed Stabler is the new program director.

Ace of Hearts has flipped the Bobby Lewis single; "Lady Lover" has been added to the lists at WHN, WIRE and KFDI.